

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An IC socket ~~comprising~~ having a socket body for mounting an IC package, ~~thereon~~ the IC socket comprising[[,]]; a plurality of contacts provided in the socket body[[,]]; and a cover member ~~of a frame shape having an opening at a center thereof and adapted to be~~ movable in an upward direction and a downward direction, having a cam surface, a plurality of partition walls, and a plurality of ribs; wherein ~~a rib is provided to be coupled to either a lower surface or a lateral surface of a partition wall for sectioning a cam surface of the cover member for operating the contact~~ the cam surface is provided on a lower surface of the cover member to engage the plurality of contacts; wherein the partition walls are disposed on the cam surface and define adjacent accommodating portions for the plurality of contacts; and wherein each rib is disposed between partition walls and is coupled to be integrated to at least one of a lower surface and a lateral surface associated with each partition wall to increase a mechanical strength of each partition wall.
2. (Original) An IC socket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rib is coupled to the lower surface of the partition wall.
3. (Original) An IC socket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rib is coupled to the lateral surface of the partition wall.

4. (Original) An IC socket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the contact has a movable contact section capable to deform elastically and extending from a portion fixed to the socket body.

5. (Original) An IC socket as claimed in claim 4, wherein the contact is of a one-point touch structure having the movable contact section, comprising

a movable contact point formed at a tip end of a bending portion bending at a generally right angle from a strip portion of the movable contact section capable to deform elastically and extending upward from a base section fixed to the socket body, and

a follower portion extending upward from the bending portion, wherein

a tip end of the follower portion is formed to be engaged with the cam surface on the lower side of the cover member and is cam-operated thereby.

6. (Original) An IC socket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the contact has a stationary contact section and a movable contact section provided in correspondence to the stationary contact section to be movable relative thereto.

7. (Original) An IC socket as claimed in claim 4, wherein

the contact forms a two-point touch structure having the stationary contact section and the movable contact section,

the stationary contact section and the movable contact section are branched from a base section fixed to the socket body,

the movable contact section has a movable contact point formed at a tip end of a bending portion extending from a strip portion of the movable contact section capable to deform elastically and extending upward from the base section, which bending portion bends to form a generally right angle relative to the strip portion, and a follower portion projected upward from the bending portion, and

a tip end of the follower portion is engaged with a cam surface on the lower side of the cover member to be cam-operated.

8. (Original) An IC socket as claimed in claim 5, wherein the follower portion of the movable contact section is accommodated in a chamber defined by the cam surface on the lower side of the cover member and the partition walls coupled to the ribs.

9. (Original) An IC socket as claimed in claim 4, wherein the follower portions of the movable contact sections are respectively arranged in the chambers on the lower side of the cover member.